



The *Journal of Regional Research - Investigaciones Regionales* announces a Call for Papers (CfP) for a Special Issue: **Long-term care and community innovation programs: composition, challenges and territorial deployment.**

The provision of care is one of the main challenges facing modern societies. As regards the concept of '*social organization of care*', special attention has been paid to how societies distribute care at the level of the State, family, market and community organizations. While there is a wealth of literature dealing with the exchange between the first three areas referred to above, the fourth domain -the community- has been overlooked in the field of social research. However, interest in community-based methods and practices in care provision has grown during the periods of systemic crisis over the last decade. Since the Great Recession of 2008 and the pandemic of 2020 in particular, the ever-increasing trend has been to question individual intervention models due to their inability to respond to emerging social problems and to manage long-term care. Hence, the growing interest in community-based methods and practices which are being adopted through different mechanisms: either by the introduction of community intervention formulas, community action-research methods, or emerging models like co-creation. The progressive ageing of Europe's population along with the rapid demographic transition in the rest of the world have made it necessary to implement innovative methods in the provision of care to confront circumstances such as re-familiarization, commodification and the commercialization of care that are taking place in Western societies. These processes also increase the existence of social inequalities when dealing with the health-related conditions caused by aging.

In Spain, the increasing need for care provision brought about by the above-mentioned sociodemographic changes, together with the recent health crisis, have spurred the emergence of innovative community solutions that have been advocated by self-managed citizens' ventures as well as public policies. Some examples of these undertakings based on solidarity and mutual support groups are co-housing communities for the elderly and child-rearing groups. Public administrations, especially the local ones, have also launched cooperative endeavours to provide care for elderly and dependent persons. Here it is fitting to highlight initiatives such as the Radars Program and the "Supermanzanas" in Barcelona, the "Care Ecosystems" in Guipúzkoa and the "Madrid, city of care" Program.

In this Special Issue, we set out to analyse the potential of these community networks and cooperation dynamics to act as a link in the coordination of care provision and secondly, to explore social innovation programs and public policies that can be promoted by public administrations to improve the quality of long-term care. The aim of this Special Issue is to discuss the ability of social innovation programs supported by a philosophy based on community service, to improve the social provision of

care, promoting the ageing in place concept and helping users to continue to stay in their environment. Although Spain is our initial focal point, we encourage the submission of articles that collect experiences from other countries and other latitudes. If we concentrate on the perspective of territory in addition to a comparative approach, it will be possible to determine the specifics of each context to explore alternatives for governance that will boost the quality of services and promote the democratization of long-term care.

For the above reasons, this Special Issue includes the following topics, among others:

- Strategies to improve the quality of life of the elderly and family caregivers as well as promoting innovative community care policies and services.
- Social innovation programs which, being strongly rooted in the community, have fostered progress in the democratization of care provision.
- Analysis of the ability of senior co-housing supported by public policies, to provide ways to avoid social isolation and to reverse commodified and family-based care practices.
- Cooperative ventures of home care workers that have made it possible to dignify their working conditions and improve the care of the elderly.
- Examination of self-managed mutual support groups aimed at alleviating situations of vulnerability and social fragility.

From this perspective, this Special Issue engages in a discussion of the challenges and possibilities posed by the community as a socially organized space from which care provision can be coordinated. Therefore, the Special Issue will encourage the presentation of articles which, based on demonstrated research results, will examine innovative undertakings that have been implemented to expand upon the field of community and care. These may include qualitative, quantitative, or mixed analyses. The issue aims to assist with the review of the different approaches to innovative practices in long-term care and to identify the most transformative experiences, both at the level of the public administrations as well as collective groups through collaborative and self-management initiatives. The innovative methodologies being deployed by some public administrations and citizen participation have become key tools for coping with the care burden of aging societies.

Submission Instructions

Authors are invited to submit the full paper through the journal's online submission system. All submissions will be subject to the journal's usual blind peer review process. Please visit the Guidelines for authors (<https://investigacionesregionales.org/en/envio-de-articulos2/envio-de-originales/>) for further detail. According to the editorial policy of Investigaciones Regionales, contributions in English and Spanish are welcome. If accepted, independently of the language of the paper, its abstract must be presented in both languages.

Invited Special Issue Editors

Raquel Martínez-Buján is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Universidade da Coruña. Her main fields of research are the Dynamics of international migrations, Social Policy and Employment, Sociology of Care and Commoning Care. Her recent publications include the following: 'Welfare Paradoxes and Interpersonal Pacts: Transnational Social Protection of Latin

American Migrants in Spain' (2022. Social Inclusion, with Laura Oso) and "Caring democracy now: Neighborhood Support Networks in the Wake of the 15-M" (2022. Social Movement Studies, with C. Diz and B. Estévez). She has been principal investigator of 3 research projects funded by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, the latest of which is entitled, "Long-term care models in transition: the articulation of community programs in the public welfare system after Covid-19", 2021-2024.

Magdalena Díaz Gorfinkiel is an Associated Professor at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and vice-dean in the degree on Sociology and in the double degree on Political Sciences and Sociology. Her main research areas are related to gender relations and care dynamics, being domestic employment, community initiatives and deinstitutionalization the main fields of analysis. She has participated in a variety of conferences and seminars as well as in research projects, co-directing nowadays the project 'Long-term care models in transition: the articulation of community programs in the public welfare system after Covid-19'.